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Fastest Tongue in Politics

Vice President Used His Words of 1948 To Squelch a Walk-Out From His Speech

CIA

By Jack Anderson

VICE PRESIDENT Hubert H. Humphrey, one of the fastest tongues in politics, has become LBJ's most effective trouble shooter.

Just before Humphrey was scheduled to speak at Philadelphia's Convention Hall the other evening, he was warned that a civil rights bloc planned to stage a mass walkout.

Newspapers and broadcasting networks also had been tipped off. Newsmen had their pencils poised; TV cameras were ready to film the drama.

Unperturbed, the Vice President stepped before the microphone. He laid aside his prepared text and recalled another time he had spoken in the same auditorium—in 1948 at the Democratic National Convention. Humphrey delivered a speech that electrified the crowd.

"The time has arrived," he shouted, "for the Democratic Party to get out of the shadow of states' rights and walk forthrightly in the bright sunshine of human rights."

Humphrey recalled those words to the 1966 crowd and told how the Southern delegates had walked out in protest. He paused for the message to sink in.

Members of the civil rights group, who had planned to walk out, began applauding instead. No one moved from his seat as the Vice President finished his speech.

Terrorizing Tourists

THE LIFTING of the Iron Curtain to admit Western tourists has been hailed as one of the great events of the past decade. Instead of a trickle of VIPs, ordinary Americans are flooding into Russia at the rate of 12,000 a year for a look-see, while another 20,000 a year are touring through Eastern Europe.

It was Drew Pearson, incidentally, who began harping on people-to-people friendship 20 years ago and had a lot to do with this development. He even organized "Freedom Friendship Balloons" that soared across the Iron Curtain when Stalin refused to permit contacts with the West.

This summer, however, a new element has been introduced into the Iron Curtain tourist traffic: the Big Swap,

spies for tourists. Both the United States and Russia are partly to blame.

Some Americans head into Communist countries to visit the lands of their birth; others are students with honest curiosity. But most are just plain tourists.

Those who visit Communist countries this summer will receive an ominous warning from the State Department that they go at their own risk and cannot count upon Uncle Sam to rescue them from Communist justice.

If they run afoul of the law, they can be arrested and held days for interrogation. State Department Document M-360 warns tourists that Soviet treatment of Americans violating their laws is harsher in periods of strained relations between the two countries. Just now, there is strain over the Vietnam war.

Though the document acknowledges that comparatively few American tourists have been molested in Russia, it notes in the dry words of diplomacy: "There have been indications of Soviet interest in exchanging imprisoned American tourists for Soviet citizens convicted of espionage in the United States."

DOCUMENT M-360 was issued not long after the tragic death of American tourist Newcomb Mott, 27, a textbook salesman from Sheffield, Mass. Soviet authorities said he committed suicide by slashing his throat while riding a convict train to a forced labor camp.

His crime: He strayed across the border between Norway and Russia. Mott had been looking for a crossing point to obtain permission to buy souvenirs in the nearby Soviet town of Boris Gleb, but crossed into Soviet territory without seeing any border markers.

American officials, who eventually were permitted to examine the body, were far from satisfied with the suicide theory. There were many wounds on Mott's body which seemed too deep to have been self-inflicted.

Unfortunately, the United States is partly to blame for the tragedy of errors leading to Mott's death. For years the CIA kept a "black list" of Soviet intelligence Agency, through its field of-

fices in 30 U.S. cities, sought to persuade Russia-bound businessmen, students and tourists to record and report their observations.

Naturally, the KGB, the Soviet secret police, became suspicious of American travelers and is still worried about amateur spies.

Whether the Russians mistook Mott for a spy or merely seized him as a convenient hostage, United States authorities believe he would have been offered in trade for a Soviet spy held in this country.

IRONICALLY, the idea of the spy swap originated when we wanted to exchange Soviet master spy Col. Rudolf Ivanovich Abel, trapped in New York City, for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, shot down over Russia.

Only a few weeks after Mott's death, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, on a visit to Moscow, ran into the tourists - for - spies proposal from no less than Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

The Russians are holding a British lecturer, Gerald Brooke, 27, who was sentenced to five years of hard labor for taking anti-Soviet literature into Russia.

The Russians went out of their way to publicize Brooke's wretched condition. They allowed his wife Barbara to visit him in a labor camp 100 miles outside Moscow. She found her husband, head shaved, on a near-starvation diet. She was shocked by his emaciated appearance.

But despite her pleading, Prime Minister Wilson refused to submit to diplomatic blackmail and turned down the proposed trade of Brooke for a Russian spy held in Britain.

State Department officials believe the Russians have now decided to take the game a step further. Selected tourists not only can be held on trumped-up charges to be exchanged for professional spies caught by the Allies, but they can be sent to labor camps to wait to be exchanged for Soviet spies not yet caught.

Thus, the important advance in people-to-people friendship may be jeopardized.

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